

**Identity Crisis in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* and *The Lowland*:  
A Post-colonial Study**

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**Abstract**

Many literary works have been written by diaspora writers who settled in different countries. South Asian diaspora writers depict the immigrants' problems and conflicts in their novels and short stories. Jhumpa Lahiri is one of the second-generation immigrant's writers. Her works describe the psychological trauma of immigrants. Her characters suffer from displacement and alienation. This study aims to examine from a post-colonial perspective how identity crisis is depicted in Lahiri's two novels *The Namesake* (2003) and *The Lowland* (2013). It also delves into these novels to explain the different diaspora problems associated with identity crisis such as loneliness, dislocation and nostalgia. The characters suffer because they live away from their homelands. They have to speak a different language and adopt a different culture which leads to their alienation and suffering. This thesis discusses the characters' identity crises and their success or failure to create a hybrid identity. Different concepts like mimicry, third space and hybridity will be used in analyzing the characters' identities. The thesis also aims at tracing where the characters (males and females) meet or differ in their cultural struggles and their identities crises.

Keywords: Diaspora, hybrid identity, identity crisis, mimicry, third space.